

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11695 121512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 EB-08 VO-03 SCA-01
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USDOC FOR MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EWWT, UR, US
SUBJECT: MARINE INSURANCE

REF: (A) STATE 183946, (B) MOSCOW 11690

SUMMARY: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) CONTINUES TO REGARD AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE UNDERWRITERS (AIMU) DELEGATION AS PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN AND IS UNWILLING ITSELF TO ARRANGE A SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS. IN LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL FROM DEPUTY MINISTER IVANOV HANDED BY MFT OFFICIAL TO EMBASSY E/C COUNSELOR (SEPTTEL), HOWEVER, IVANOV STATES HE HAS GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT MESSRS. GREEN AND PEPPERELL SHOULD BE GIVEN SUPPORT FOR THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS AND IN THE ARRANGEMENT OF THEIR MEETINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS (FTO'S). MFT HAS CONTACTED FTO'S TO URGE THEIR COOPERATION AND WILL HELP IN CASE OF OBSTACLES. (HOWEVER, MFT STATES THAT NO VISA APPLICATIONS YET MADE BY GREEN AND PEPPERELL.) MFT SUGGESTS THAT GREEN AND PEPPERELL ARRANGE AUTOMOBILES FROM INTOURIST AT TIME THEY APPLY FOR VISAS, SINCE IT DOES NOT INTEND TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION (NOR CAN EMBASSY). END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 11695 121512Z

1. E/C COUNSELOR CALLED ON MEL'NIKOV OF MFT AUGUST 12 TO INTRODUCE FIRST SECRETARY HAMILTON AND TO DISCUSS AIMU VISIT. TO OUR SURPRISE, MEL'NIKOV STATED AT OUTSET THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED CABLE FROM SOVIET TRADE REP IN US INDICATING THAT AS OF AUG 11, VISA APPLICATIONS HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN MADE BY MESSRS. GREENE AND PEPPERELL. THEY HAD ONLY INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO DO SO. DESPITE EMBOFFS CITATION OF STATE 183946, MEL'NIKOV INSISTED

THAT SOVIET CONSULATE'S WORD WAS AUTHORITATIVE. HE REPEATED THAT MFT WAS READY TO SUPPORT AIMU'S VISA APPLICATIONS, BUT COULD NOT DO SO BEFORE LATTER HAD INDEED BEEN SUBMITTED.

2. MEL'NIKOV LEFT NO DOUBT THAT MFT NOT ACCORDING OFFICIAL STATUS TO GREENE AND PEPPERELL. COUNSELOR'S CITATION OF IVANOV INVITATION ELICITED COMMENT FROM MEL'NIKOV THAT IVANOV HAD MEANT ONLY THAT IF US MARINE INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS EXPECTED TO OBTAIN SOVIET BUSINESS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INITIATIVE, AS BY COMING TO MOSCOW TO TRY TO SELL. (HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN IN LONDON AT THE TIME, WHEREAS EMBOFFS HAD NOT.)

3. AT CLOSE OF SESSION MEL'NIKOV ASKED COUNSELOR TO ACCEPT LETTER DATED AUGUST 12 FROM DEPUTY MINISTER IVANOV TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLACKWELL (SEE SEPTTEL). IN HIS LETTER IVANOV, USING PASSIVE VOICE, INDICATES THAT ORDERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO SUPPORT MESSRS. GREEN AND PEPPERELL IN THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS AND IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SET UP MEETINGS WITH SOVIET FTO'S. (THE SENTENCE IN THE IVANOV LETTER SOUNDS A TRIFLE MORE FORTHCOMING THAN MEL'NIKOV'S WORDS BUT SEEMS TO ACCORD CLOSELY WITH WHAT LATTER IS DOING, I.E., MONITORING BEHIND THE SCENES TO ENSURE THAT FTO'S DO HEAR THE AIMU DELEGATION OUT, WITHOUT THE MFT GETTING OVERTLY INVOLVED IN THE POSSIBLE RESULTS.)

4. MFT'S ATTITUDE REGARDING STATUS OF VISIT HAS SEVERAL PRACTICAL EFFECTS UPON PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT:

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 11695 121512Z

TICAL EFFECTS UPON PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT:

A) GREENE AND PEPPERELL SHOULD GO THROUGH INTOURIST TO SET UP HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

B) MFT HAS NOT THOUGHT OF SUPPLYING TRANSPORTATION.

WHILE, AT OUR RAISING SUBJECT MEL'NIKOV INDICATED HE WOULD SEE WHETHER INGOSSTRakh WOULD SUPPLY VEHICLE, HE EXPRESSED A PESSIMISM ABOUT INGOSSTRakh'S DECISION THAT SOUNDED LIKE A SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY. SINCE EMBASSY CANNOT MAKE VEHICLE AVAILABLE, AIMU MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO RELY ON OFF-CHANCE THAT INGOSSTRakh WILL COME THROUGH, OR TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH INTOURIST FOR A CAR, AS WELL AS FOR LODGING. STRONGLY RECOMMEND LATTER COURSE OF ACTION.

C) IN VIEW OF MFT'S DISINCLINATION TO PREPARE A SCHEDULE, WE WILL HAVE TO SET UP MEETINGS WITH FTO'S AND INGOSSTRakh. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING THESE ARRANGEMENTS, AS MEL'NIKOV INDICATED THAT HE HAD ALREADY RESPONDED TO INQUIRIES FROM SEVERAL FTO'S TO THE EFFECT THAT, UPON REQUEST, THEY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH GREENE AND PEPPERELL. HE FURTHER STATED

THAT IF OBSTACLES WERE ENCOUNTERED, HE WOULD RESOLVE THEM.

5. PARTICULARLY IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS VISIT, E/C COUNSELOR IS PREPARED TO HOLD SMALL RECEPTION IN ITS HONOR AUGUST 22, TO WHICH IVANOV, OTHER MFT OFFICIALS AND FTO REPS WOULD BE INVITED. (WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, IN THIS CONNECTION, IF DELEGATION WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO OFFSET EXPENSE OF THIS EVENT.) FACT THAT MEL'NIKOV, AT OUR REQUEST, READILY TICKED OFF LIST OF MFT AND MARITIME MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO SHOULD BE INVITED REINFORCES VIEW THAT MFT WILL SUPPORT THIS VISIT, AT LEAST DE FACTO. WHILE IT REFUSES, AS STATED ABOVE, TO RECOGNIZE AIMU VISIT AS OFFICIAL, IT APPEARS THAT MINISTRY WELL AWARE THAT VISIT IS RESULT OF IVANOV'S ORIGINAL SUGGESTION AND THAT A LOSS OF CREDIBILITY WOULD BE ENTAILED IF TRIP DID NOT HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 11695 121512Z

APPEARANCE OF ENJOYING COOPERATION OF RELEVANT SOVIET "BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS."
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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